

REMARKS

Consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A new Abstract has been provided.

The specification has been amended in the same manner as in allowed parent Application Serial No. 09/158,362, of which the present application is a Divisional. Approval and entry of the amendments to the Abstract and specification is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-20 have been canceled, new claims 21-27 being substituted therefor. New claims 21-27 are clearly fully supported by the original disclosure. New claims 21-27 correspond respectively to canceled claims 28-34 of parent Application Serial No. 09/158,362.

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is a Form PTO/SB/08A listing the particulars of the documents cited by the Applicant and by the Examiner in parent application Serial No. 09/158,362, and which were made "of record" in said parent application.

Copies of the publications listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A are not supplied herewith. As per 37 CFR 1.98(d), which was effective March 16, 1992, copies of publications listed

in an Information Disclosure Statement are not required to be provided if the information was cited or submitted in a prior application. The present application properly identifies prior parent application Serial No. 09/158,362 (filed: September 22, 1998) and relies upon said prior parent application for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the publications identified on the attached Form PTO/S/08A submitted herewith and make them of record, as in the parent application.

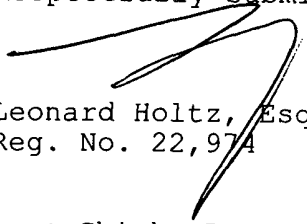
It is further requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached Form PTO/SB//08A to confirm that the publications listed therein have been made of record.

The references are all relevant since they are "of record" in the parent application which is directed to similar subject matter.

It is respectfully requested that prosecution on the merits now proceed on the basis of the application as amended herewith.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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